

DOCTOR WHO BAT ATTACK!

LONDON, 1897

...HAD THE EVIL PROFESSOR JANKS BEEN MARRIED THIS MORNING, THE CASE OF THE UNSUITABLE SUITOR MIGHT NEVER HAVE BEEN CLOSED!

DOCTOR, YOU AND RUSS TYLER SHALL RECEIVE FULL CREDIT! HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA SHALL HEAR OF THIS!

ER...

BAH!

DOUBLE BAH!

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BEST NOT BROADCAST THE HANDLE, INSPECTOR LESTRADE. I'M SURE YOU CAN THINK OF SOME WAY TO COVER UP MY INVOLVEMENT...

A FALSE NAME, PERHAPS?

SMART THINKING, SHERLOCK!

WHAT DID SHE SAY...?

WHERE NOW, DOCTOR?

A CAB TO WATERLOO, CATCH THE BOAT TRAIN TO PARIS...

HOW DO YOU FANCY A NIGHT AT LE MOULIN ROUGE?

FANTASTIC! YOU CAN BE THE DUKE DE TARRIS, I'LL BE NICOLE KIDMAN...

UH... SIGHT...

HOY, GABBYE! WHAT'S WITH THE GO-SLOW? THE CONGESTION CHARGE DOESN'T KICK IN FOR OVER A CENTURY!

SQUEE!

SQUEE!

SQUEE!

SQUEE!

GREAT HEAVENS!

DO WHATT?

VAMPIRE BATS! IN VICTORIAN LONDON!

YOU KNOW, ROSE, I'M GETTING THAT FIMBLING FEELING...

I SAY!

HAD ADVENTURE AHEAD?

...HAD ADVENTURE AHEAD! DRIVER -

FOLLOW THOSE BATS!

LOOK, LEAD A DUCK!



COME ON! NO TIME TO LOSE!

UH... JUST KEEP THE METER RUNNING, YEAH? WE'LL BE BACK TO PAY YOU, PROMISE...

MIGHT BE 1952 OR SOMETHING, BUT WE WILL BE BACK!



PARK IN HERE...

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

OH MY G--

FIRST, A LITTLE REFRESHMENT... IT IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT HER VEINS HAVE APPEARED IN MY THIRST!



OH YOU DROP THAT GUN NOW!

YOU GOT FEARLESS VAMPIRE KILLERS INCOMING!

OH MY GOODNESS!

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF--?

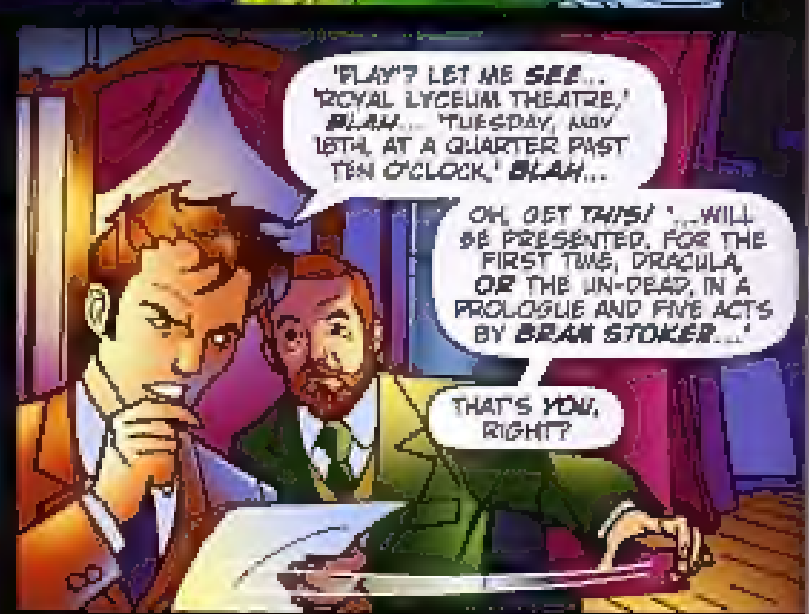
LAMPLIGHTERS!



SIR, YOUR WILD CHILD HAS SPOILED MY PLAY...

PLEASE REMOVE HER FROM MY STAGE!

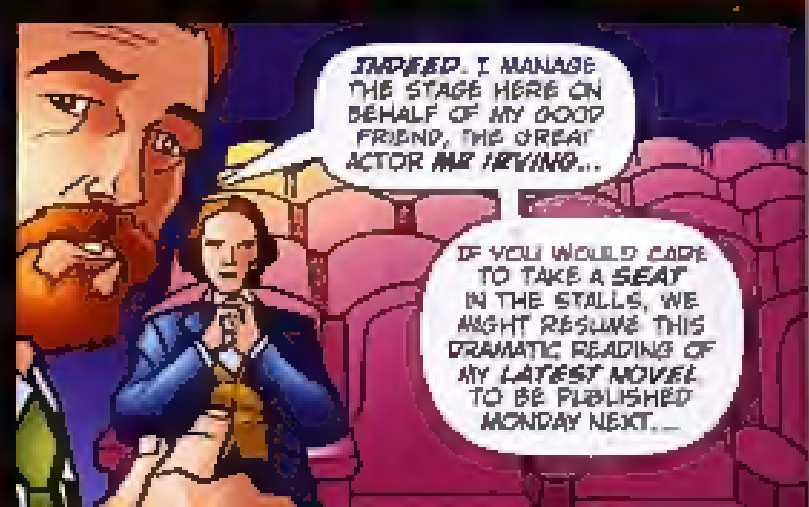
DREADFUL, SIMPLY DREADFUL...



'PLAY'? LET ME SEE... 'ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE,' BLAH... 'TUESDAY, NOV 18TH, AT A QUARTER PAST TEN O'CLOCK,' BLAH...

OH, GET THIS! '...WILL BE PRESENTED, FOR THE FIRST TIME, DRACULA, OR THE UN-DEAD, IN A PROLOGUE AND FIVE ACTS BY BRAN STOKER...'

THAT'S YOU, RIGHT?



INDEED, I MANAGE THE STAGE HERE ON BEHALF OF MY GOOD FRIEND, THE GREAT ACTOR MR IRVING...

IF YOU WOULD CARE TO TAKE A SEAT IN THE STALLS, WE MIGHT RESUME THIS DRAMATIC READING OF MY LATEST NOVEL TO BE PUBLISHED MONDAY NEXT...

I TRUST YOUR
YOUNG CHARGE
WILL NOT BE
TOO AFRAID?

WHAT, OF DRACHLA?
HA! TRUST ME, MATE,
THERE'S THINGS I'VE
SEEN WOULD MAKE
YOUR BEARD CURL!

IN CASE YOU'VE
FORGOTTEN,
ROSE, WE'RE HERE
FOR A REASON...

MR STOKER,
MR IRVING! GUYS,
I HAVE TO TELL
YOU THERE'S A
SWARM OF BATS
ABOVE THIS
THEATRE, AND -

BRAM!
BRAM!

OH,
WHAT
NOW?

'TIS MY WIFE,
FLORENCE - BUT
WHAT BRINGS HER
HERE AT SUCH
A CANTER?

...A TELEGRAM,
BRAM, FROM
SOUTHAMPTON
DOCKS! BEARING
MOST TERRIBLE
NEWS...

W-WE ARRIVED IN
ENGLAND JUST
YESTERDAY! OH, MY
HUSBAND - I FEAR
HE WANTS YOUR
BLOOD!

'HE'?
'WE'?
WHO
IS THIS
'HE'?

GOOD
QUESTION!

UH...

...TRY THE BIG
BEARDY BLOKE
IN ROW 6?

GOOD
ANSWER!

STOKER!
STOKER!!
'HE' IS
INDEED I...

COUNT
DRACHLA OF
TRANSYLVANIA,
COME TO WREAK
MY REVENGE
ON YOU!



O-KAY... WE GOT BARLIC?

NOPE.

SILVER CROSSES?

NOPE.

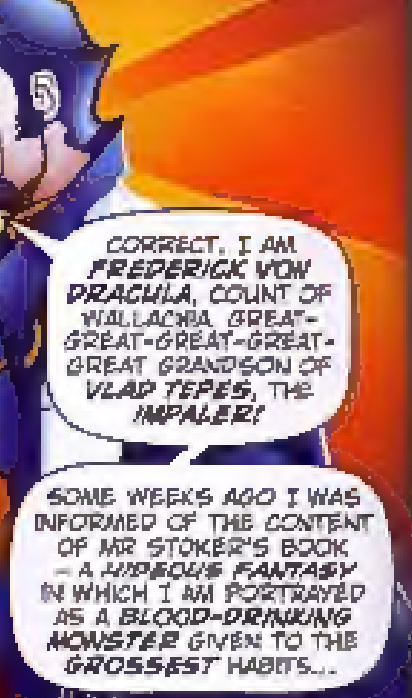
WOODEN STAKES?

NOPE.



BUT NONE OF THAT GUBBINS WOULD DO US ANY GOOD...

'COS YOU'RE HUMAN, COUNT. AM I RIGHT, OR AM I RIGHT?



CORRECT, I AM FREDERICK VON DRACHULA, COUNT OF WALLACHIA, GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT GRANDSON OF VLAD TEPES, THE IMPALER!

SOME WEEKS AGO I WAS INFORMED OF THE CONTENT OF MR STOKER'S BOOK - A *HIDEOUS FANTASY* IN WHICH I AM PORTRAYED AS A BLOOD-DRAWING MONSTER GIVEN TO THE GROSSEST HABITS...



...I, A GENTLEMAN OF LEARNING, TASTE AND CHARITY! I HAVE JOURNEYED TO LONDON TO SEEK OUT THIS MAN STOKER, THE AUTHOR RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE VILE ALLEGATIONS -

AND NOW I SHALL STILL HIS LYING TONGUE!



B-BUT I HAD NO IDEA! I JUST TOOK THE NAME FROM AN ENCYCLOPAEDIA. I NEVER IMAGINED THERE REALLY WAS A D-D-RACHULA...

OH, OH! OOOH!!

I CAN SEE YOU'VE BEEN LIBELLED HERE, FREDDIE - BUT CAN'T YOU TAKE IT UP WITH HIS SOLICITOR?

YEAH, ALRIGHT. THE DOCTOR'LL SORT IT.



SOLICITOR - PAW! LAWYERS AND THEIR KIND, THEY'RE THE REAL BLOODSUCKERS!

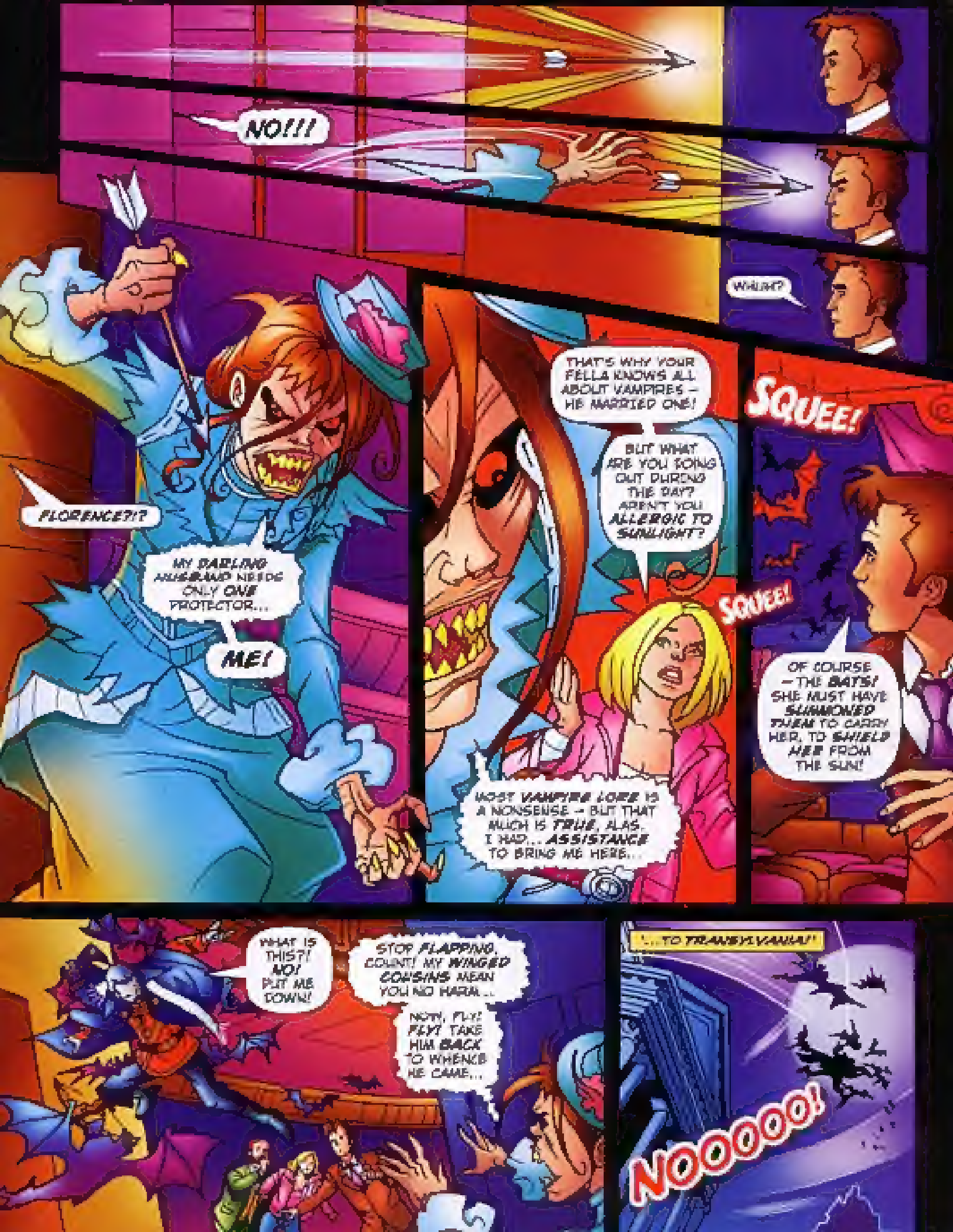
I SHALL HAVE MY SATISFACTION AT THE MOMENT OF STOKER'S DEATH!

NO WAY! YOU WANT TO SHOOT HIM, YOU GO THROUGH ME FIRST!



AS YOU WISH.

BLAM!



NO!!!

WHAT?

FLORENCE?!?

MY DARLING HUSBAND NEEDS ONLY ONE PROTECTOR...

ME!

THAT'S WHY YOUR FELLA KNOWS ALL ABOUT VAMPIRES - HE MARRIED ONE!

BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT DURING THE DAY? AREN'T YOU ALLERGIC TO SUNLIGHT?

SQUEE!

SQUEE!

OF COURSE - THE BATS! SHE MUST HAVE SUMMONED THEM TO CARRY HER, TO SHIELD HER FROM THE SUN!

MOST VAMPIRE LORE IS A NONSENSE - BUT THAT MUCH IS TRUE, ALAS. I HAD... ASSISTANCE TO BRING ME HERE...

WHAT IS THIS?! NO! PUT ME DOWN!

STOP FLAPPING, COUNT! MY WINGED COUSINS MEAN YOU NO HARM...

NOT, FLY! FLY! TAKE HIM BACK TO WHENCE HE CAME...

...TO TRANSYLVANIA!

NOOOOOO!

WE CAN COUNT THE COUNT OUT OF THE EQUATION... BUT WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT YOU, FLORENCE?

MY SECRET MUST REMAIN SECRET! BUT WHAT AM I GOING TO DO ABOUT ALL OF YOU?

NO ONE CAN HELP. IT IS TWENTY YEARS SINCE THE MAN I FIRST LOVED MADE ME THIS.

TWENTY YEARS IN DARKNESS, WITH ONLY FAITHFUL BRAM TO HELP ME, TO KEEP ME NOURISHED.

WHAT'VE YOU DONE, FLORENCE?

THEY ARE MESMERISED. I MUST VAMPIRISE THEM ALL!

FLORENCE, NO! I'M THE DOCTOR, I CAN HELP!

WHAT? SHE SUCKS YOUR BLOOD?

NO! THERE ARE ALTERNATIVES -- LIKE THE BLOOD OF SMALLER ANIMALS. KITTENS, WE'VE FOUND, ARE BEST.

TWENTY YEARS IN
DARKNESS WITH
ONLY FAITHFUL
BRAIN TO HELP
ME, TO KEEP ME
NOURISHED.

NO! THERE ARE
ALTERNATIVES -
LIKE THE BLOOD OF
SMALLER MAMMALS.
KITTENS, WE'VE
FOUND, ARE BEST.

VAMPIRISM'S MORE COMMON THAN YOU THINK, ROSE. WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP, DID AN OLD LADY LIVE NEARBY, BUT NEVER WENT OUT AND KEPT TOO MANY CATS?

EXACTLY, WHO WAS
IT, FLORENCE, WHO
MADE YOU LIKE THIS?

THE MAN WHO
DID THIS TO ME IS
INFAMOUS NOW. THE
FOREMOST POET, WIT
AND PLAYWRIGHT OF
THE AGE...

HIS NAME
IS OSCAR
WILDE.

'OKAY, PROBLEM.
IT'S 1897 - OLD
OSCAR'S DANCED UP
IN READING GOLF'

TELL YOU ONE THING,
IN ALL ITS FORMS, IT'S
AN ALIEN DISEASE, A
VIRUS, DEPENDENT FOR
SURVIVAL ON ITS HOST.

HAHA "WE ARE ALL OF US IN THE BUTTER, BUT SOME OF US ARE LOOKING AT THE... 'ROOF' 'SKY'?"

SIMPLE! WE'LL BREAK INTO PRISON AND WE'LL GIVE OSCAR WILDE. AND I TELL YOU WHAT ELSE, ROSE -

WE'RE GONNA
SAVE THE
KITTENS!

EEEEEOOOOOO

**TO BE CONTINUED!
DON'T MISS THE
NEXT ISSUE, OUT
ON 7 SEPTEMBER,
FOR THE THRILLING
CONCLUSION!**